

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03043 031205Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-15 CA-01
INSE-00 EB-08 VO-03 PA-02 ICAE-00 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 DOTE-00
INRE-00 /085 W
-----009672 031215Z /44

O R 031145Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 757
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3043

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD CYS "HOPE"

REF: COLOMBO 2923

1. UNDP REPRESENTATIVE COLOMBO Y.Y. KIN (ROK) ACTING ON BE-HALF UNHCR WORKED ALL WEEKEND WITH GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA (GSL) OFFICIALS TO TRY AND SECURE PERMISSION FOR "HOPE" REFUGEES TO LAND. KIM GAVE WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT ALL REFUGEE EXPENSES IN SRI LANKA WOULD BE PAID BY UNHCR AND GUARANTEED THAT REFUGEES WOULD REMAIN HERE ONLY FOR LIMITED TIME, PENDING RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. CHARGE FOLLOWED UP AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY KIM, EXPRESSING USG SUPPORT FOR UNHCR REQUEST.

2. AT 1600 JULY 3 GSL FOREIGN MINISTER HAMEED CALLED KIM IN AND SAID REFUGEES COULD NOT LAND BECAUSE "GSL DID NOT WISH TO UNCLASSIFIED

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GET INVOLVED." HAMEED REMAINED UNMOVED BY KIM'S RENEWED PRESENTATION. "HOPE" WILL FINISH LOADING CARGO OF NAPTHA NIGHT OF 3 JULY AND SCHEDULED LEAVE COLOMBO MORNING 4 JULY FOR JAPAN WITH ONLY CALL SCHEDULED AT SINGAPORE. REFUGEES IN GOOD HEALTH, WITH CLOTHING AND TOYS DONATED PERSONALLY BY UN AND US EMBASSY PERSONNEL. THEY ALL EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO HONG KONG CHINESE CAPTAIN OF "HOPE" WHO PICKED THEM UP

AFTER MANY VESSELS PASSED BY. CAPTAIN BELIEVES HE MAY BE FIRED FOR INCURRING EXPENSE AND DELAY BY PICKING UP REFUGEES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: I HAVE EXPRESSED TO GSL OFFICIALS HERE MY DISAPPOINTMENT AT THIS DECISION, SO MUCH AT VARIANCE WITH THE TRADITION OF GENEROUS HOSPITALITY OF SRI LANKA. THEIR RESPONSE HAS BEEN AN EMBARRASSED SILENCE. IF THE DEPARTMENT RAISES THE MATTER WITH GSL EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED. THIS IS OUR SECOND UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT WITH THE GSL ON BEHALF OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AND WE WOULD LIKE TO DO BETTER WHENEVER THE NEXT SHIPLOAD ARRIVES.

4. REASONABLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF GSL REFUSAL OF "HOPE" VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CARRIED 3 JULY COLOMBO PRESS.

LEVIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB03043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780273-1193
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807100/aaaadgvi.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad44c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COLOMBO 2923
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1848330
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD CYS \"HOPE\"
TAGS: SREF, VM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad44c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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